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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR(Ukrainian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 14 February 1952

SUBJECT Tank Plant at Kiev Darnitsa

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LISTED BELOWSUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The tank plant in Kiev (50°27'N/30°32'E) was east of the Darnitsa railroad station and south of the railroad line to Poltava (49°35'N/34°34'E). (1) Some of the plant installations were destroyed during the war. However, in 1945 work had already been resumed in the foundry, welding shop, assembly shop, and engine department. The plant was completely restored in 1947/1948. A new lathe shop and a new parking shed were added. New workshop buildings were also built in the area next to the plant. Some of the machines, especially the lathes, were of German origin.
2. Very contradictory indications were supplied on the plant installations. The location of the various departments in the plant area cannot be determined from the available sketches. The plant installations allegedly included a foundry producing bogie wheels, armor plates, which were about 2 meters long, 1.5 meters wide and up to 260 mm thick, and tank turrets, which were 110 cm and 80 cm high and 16 to 20 mm thick; the plant also had a rolling mill producing armor plates, 120 mm thick; an old lathe shop, a new lathe shop, equipped in mid-1947 with German machinery; an engine department for installing eight-cylinder engines in the tanks; an assembly shop which installed the tank armament, among other things, and which had a test stand for engines; and a repair department, equipped with four lathes, three drilling machines, a heavy lifting crane, and a welding shop with 10 electric welding apparatuses including one AEG apparatus for 300 amperes. (2) Electric power was supplied to the plant from Kiev. In addition to the existing high-tension line an underground cable is said to have been laid from the plant to Darnitsa in the summer of 1948.
3. Right after the war the plant only did repair work on tanks. Since early 1947, the construction of new tanks has also been reported. About 120 to 150 new T-44 tanks, a further development of the T-34, were built monthly up to July 1948. (3) Each month the plant repaired 60 to 80 tanks, mostly T-34s, but also JSs and self-propelled guns. The plant was supplied with steel ingots, structural iron, scrap and also with tank parts including tank chassis, armor plates, tracks, ball bearings, engines and guns.
4. Between 2,000 and 3,000 workmen were reportedly employed in the plant. Only some few German PWs were allegedly employed in the production department. Work was done in three eight-hour shifts. (4)

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Comments.

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- (1) See Annex 1 for a sketch indicating the location of the tank plant.
- (2) See Annex 2 for a sketch of the engine shop.
- (3) See Annex 3 for technical data on the tanks produced in the Kiev Plant. It is not clear what kind of fuel was used by the tank. The small fuel tank presumably had gasoline for the starting engine, while Diesel fuel, filled in the two 150-liter containers, was used for the normal operation of the engine. The armor plating has been considerably underestimated.
- (4) It can be inferred from the indications supplied on the plant installations that the parts needed for tank construction are not manufactured in the plant itself. This is also confirmed by the reports on incoming shipments of parts. The existence of a rolling mill is doubtful. The installation so described may be a dressing department for armor plates. The plant is presumably a central assembly plant for tank parts produced in a great number of Ukrainian plants.

3 Annexes: 2 sketches on ditto,  
1 list of tank specifications.

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